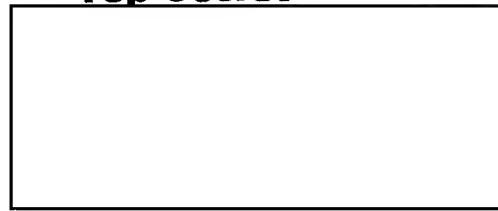


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ISRAEL-SYRIA: Israeli aircraft resumed combat missions over the Syrian front yesterday after a one-day lull. [redacted]

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The Israelis attacked Syrian targets in the Mount Hermon area and in southeastern Lebanon. According to Israeli and Lebanese press dispatches from Jerusalem, the Israelis bombed fedayeen concentrations in the Ayn Ata - Shaba area. [redacted]

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Ground combat generally appeared to pick up from Wednesday's low level. Israel announced that its long-range artillery shelled Syrian military camps at Qatana and Al Kiswah, both of which are well behind Syrian lines--in retaliation for Syrian fire which killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded two others. [redacted]

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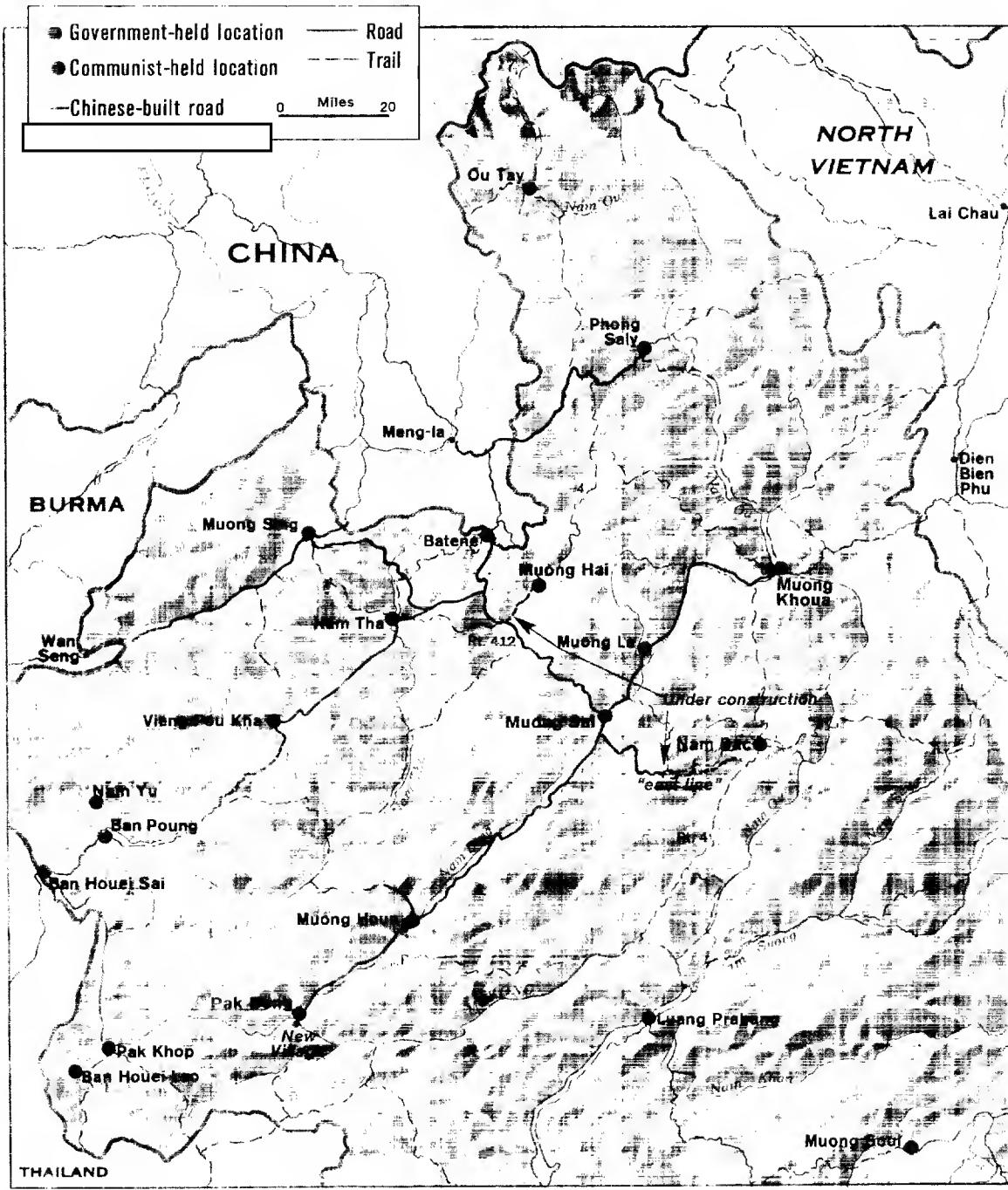
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Chinese Road Network in Northwest Laos



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CHINA-LAOS: [redacted] shows that the Chinese are continuing to expand their road network in northwest Laos. Work will soon have to slow down, however, because of the monsoon season.

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The "east line," a road being built from Muong Sai toward Nam Bac, has been extended ten miles since December, and is now within five miles of the city. Since late January the Chinese have built a construction camp consisting of some 35 buildings at Nam Bac, suggesting that the road will be extended at least that far.

A large number of buildings have recently been constructed on both sides of the Ou River at Muong Khoua. Currently, a ferry and a pontoon bridge suitable only for foot or bicycle traffic connect the two sides.

Road clearing operations, which may link Route 412 of the Chinese road network to Muong Hai, are going on south of that town.

Construction of what appears to be a new village has been noted on the south side of the Mekong River near Pak Beng. Of the 12 structures observed, four appear to be storage buildings.

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PERU: Lima reportedly is seeking financial backing from Arab countries for a number of copper-mining projects. A Peruvian delegation, which went to the Middle East last month to seek Arab support for Peruvian membership in OPEC, also requested Arab assistance for Peru's copper industry. By dealing with the Arabs, Peru hopes to obtain easier credit terms and lessen its dependence on Western investors.

Lima feels that credit from Western countries, channeled through US banks, threatens a reimposition of US control over the mining industry. This fear is now hampering negotiations for the development of the Cuajone copper mine. To protect their interests, Western creditors require that blister copper be refined and sold outside Peru, while the government is seeking more local processing and a share of the copper.



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